AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for associating computer network identifications with network policies, said method comprising the steps of:

analyzing a network interface associated with a client computer using a plurality of network detectors, the detectors outputting a set of a plurality of netspecs, each netspec comprising a first token identifying a detector used for the analysis and a second token identifying the analyzed network interface;

sorting the set of netspecs in a priority order based at least in part on the reliability of the detectors that output the netspecs, wherein detectors considered more reliable in observing network interfaces than other detectors are awarded priority in the sorting;

associating the network identifications made by the set of netspecs with locations based at least in part on the priority order of the set of netspecs; and

feeding associated network identification/location pairs to a network interface module to implement desired network policies.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the network interface module is a module from the group of modules consisting of a firewall, a router, a sniffer, an intrusion detection module, a behavior blocking module, and a network communications module.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the network interface module is a firewall, and a user of the client computer adjusts firewall settings to set network policies based upon location.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the priority order is set by a user of the client computer.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of associating the network identifications with locations comprises using a network probe to look up locations in a netspec database.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein a user of the client computer modifies the netspec database via a location setting module.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of feeding the associated network identification/location pairs to a network interface module comprises using a policy guide to feed the network identification/location pairs to the network interface module on a real-time basis.

10. (Currently amended) ~~Apparatus~~ An apparatus for associating computer network identifications with network policies, said apparatus comprising:

a computer-readable storage medium storing executable software means comprising:

means for analyzing a network interface associated with a client computer using a plurality of network detectors, the detectors outputting a set of a plurality of netspecs, each netspec comprising a first token identifying a detector used for the analysis and a second token identifying the analyzed network interface;

coupled to the analyzing means, means for sorting the set of netspecs in a priority order based at least in part on the reliability of the detectors that output the netspecs, wherein detectors considered more reliable in observing network interfaces than other detectors are awarded priority in the sorting;

coupled to the sorting means, means for associating the network identifications made by the set of netspecs with locations based at least in part on the priority order of the set of netspecs; ~~and~~

coupled to the associating means, means for feeding associated network identification/location pairs to a network interface module to implement desired network policies; and

a processor configured to execute the software means stored by the computer-readable storage medium.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the network interface module is a module from the group of modules consisting of a firewall, a router, a sniffer, an intrusion detection module, a behavior blocking module, and a network communications module.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the network interface module is a firewall, and the network policies are implemented on a packet-by-packet basis.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein locations are correlated with firewall settings on a distributed basis within the firewall.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the associating means further comprises:

a netspec database associating the netspecs with the locations.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising, coupled to the netspec database, a location setting module adapted to enable a user of the client computer to associate the locations with the netspecs.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the feeding means comprises:

a policy guide for associating the network identifications with the locations; wherein

the network interface module implements the network policies based upon the locations fed to the network interface module by the policy guide.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising, coupled to the network interface module, a user interface adapted to enable a user of the client computer to associate the locations with the network policies.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) At least one computer-readable medium containing computer program instructions for associating computer network identifications with network policies, said computer program instructions performing the steps of:

analyzing a network interface associated with a client computer using a plurality of network detectors, the detectors outputting a set of a plurality of netspecs, each netspec comprising a first token identifying a detector used for the analysis and a second token identifying the analyzed network interface;

sorting the set of netspecs in a priority order based at least in part on the reliability of the detectors that output the netspecs, wherein detectors considered more reliable in observing network interfaces than other detectors are awarded priority in the sorting;

associating the network identifications made by the set of netspecs with locations based at least in part on the priority order of the set of netspecs; and

feeding associated network identification/location pairs to a network interface module to implement desired network policies.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the client computer has a plurality of network interfaces and further comprising:

analyzing each of the plurality of network interfaces using the plurality of network detectors; and

analyzing the netspecs for the plurality of network interfaces output by the plurality of network detectors to identify a set of unique network interfaces;

wherein interfaces in the set of unique network interfaces are associated with locations responsive to the priority order.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

associating the network interface with a location associated with a highest priority netspec in the set.

24. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of netspecs comprises a first netspec and a second netspec, and wherein the sorting the set of netspecs in a priority order further comprises:

determining that a detector that output the first netspec is more reliable in observing network interfaces than a detector that output the second netspec; and

awarding a higher priority to the first netspec based on the first netspec being output by the more reliable detector; and

sorting the first and second netspecs according to the priority awarded, the first netspec being given a higher priority in the sorting than the second netspec.